Opening of new branches of Nationalised Banks at Gurgaon

940. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open some more branches of nationalised banks in different colonies/sectors at Gurgaon; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the banks whose branches are likely to be opened at Gurgaon?

THE DEPUPTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Branch Licensing Policy (1985--90) come to an end on the 31-3-1990. The guidelines for the ensuing policy are yet to be announced by the Reserve Bank of India. It will not be possible to indicate the names of the banks whose branches are likely to be opened at Gurgaon.

Revitalisation of the Brahmaputra Board

941. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking to revitalise the Brahmaputra Board to make it more meaningful and purposeful; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board continues to work as per functions envisaged under the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. A meeting of the Brahmaputra Review Board, which comprise of the Chief Minister of the North Eastern States and the concerned Union Ministers was held in July, 1990 to review and decide about the further plan of actions.

Import of films

942. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of imports of film being made by Kodak, Konica and others at present; and

(b) what are the reasons for allowing these companies to import film when these are made indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Data showing import of films are maintained for the country as a whole and not firmwise.

(b) Import of photographic films has been permitted in view of the preference shown by the tourists for imported films and to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the promotion of tourism which is an important source of foregin exchange earnings. However, at the same time, indigenous production is being protected through tariff measures.

Progress made by Agro Research Centre of Pepsi Foods

943. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of Pepsi Foods' 100 acres farm for agro research, and the Agro Research Centre;

(b) what are the new varieties of seeds that are being developed by this research centre and how this has helped the farmers of Punjab; and

(c) how many agro-scientists are involved in this project and how many other categories of persons are employed in this agro-research related work?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the table of the House.